

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07914 041235Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05  
OMB-01 /060 W

-----041239Z 072057 /46

O 041225Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8255

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7914

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV PINT UR  
SUBJECT: NEW DRAFT SOVIET CONSTITUTION

1. THE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION PUBLISHED THIS MORNING  
MAKES NO MAJOR CHANGES IN THE HIGHER STATE ORGANS, ALTHOUGH  
A FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM  
IS ADDED. THIS CHANGE WOULD FIT THE SPECULATION THAT  
BREZHNEV INTENDS TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES AS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM IN ADDITION TO  
HIS DUTIES AS PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY, SINCE A FIRST DEPUTY  
CHAIRMAN WOULD BE ABLE TO RELIEVE HIM OF MANY OF THE  
PROTOCOLARY DEMANDS OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

2. THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION STRENGTHENS THE LANGUAGE RELATING TO  
THE ORGANIC ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN ALL PHASES OF SOVIET  
LIFE AND APPLIES THE PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM TO  
STATE ORGANS. THERE ARE NEW SECTIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY AND  
DEFENSE AND THE DEFENSE COUNCIL IS MENTIONED. THE FOREIGN POLICY  
SECTION INCORPORATES INTER ALIA THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE HELSINKI  
FINAL ACT. A NEW FORM OF OWNERSHIP IS SANCTIONED, PRIVATE PLOTS ARE  
MORE CIRCUMSCRIBED, CENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT OF THE  
ECONOMY IS HIGHLIGHTED, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS ADDED.  
HUMAN RIGHTS RECEIVE MORE PROMINENCE THAN IN THE LAST CONSTITUTION,  
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BUT ARE CLOSELY TIED TO CITIZENS' OBLIGATIONS AND THE DEMANDS OF  
SOCIALIST SOCIETY. THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF EMPHASIS ON THE  
CREATION OF A "SOVIET" SOCIETY.

3. THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION CONTAINS NO REAL SURPRISES, AND MOST  
OF ITS CHANGES APPEAR TO RELATE TO THE THEORY OF THE PRESENT STAGE  
OF SOVIET ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO THE IMAGE WHICH THE

SOVIET LEADERSHIP WISHES TO PROJECT, BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY,  
THAN TO CONCRETE CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE OR THE  
METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION.

4. A MORE DETAILED SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.  
MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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